AF/3672

Atty, Dkt. No. MRKS/0012

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of:

Pietras, et al.

Serial No.: 09/509,073

Confirmation No.: 5424

Filed:

August 22, 2000

For:

An Apparatus for

Facilitating the Connection of Tubulars Using a Top

Drive

Box AF

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents** 

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: J. Hawkins

GROUP 3600

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on December 14, 2001, with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date

Signature

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 14, 2001** 

In response to the Final Office Action dated September 14, 2001, having a shortened statutory period set to expire on December 14, 2001, please enter the following amendments and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

## **IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Please amend Figures 2, 4, and 5 as shown in the attached red-lined copies.

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Enclosed herewith is a substitute specification to correct the informalities of organization as requested by the Examiner. No new matter has been introduced. Additionally, please enter the following amendments to the substitute specification:

Please delete paragraph 6.